

FD-72  
(1-10-49)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD

SECRET

3P

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 26 1954	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/28, 29; 8/11/54	REPORT MADE BY MALCOLM G. MUELLER jsg
TITLE STEFAN CONSTANTIN VICTOR POPESCU			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - RU.

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:


Information from another government agency reflects one STEFAN POPESCU, who is mentioned in the book, "Garda de Fer" (Iron Guard) by PALAGHITA, as being a trusted follower of HORIA-SIMA. Information from another source re subject set forth.

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DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

The records of Confidential Informant T-1, another government agency which conducts security investigations, reflected in part the following information:

In a book published in Argentina in 1951 entitled, "Garda de Fer" (Iron Guard), written by the late Reverend STEFAN PALAGHITA, described as a long-time Iron Guardist who has been considered to be a fairly reliable source, one STEFAN POPESCU was alleged to be a trusted follower of HORIA-SIMA, a principal Iron Guard leader. POPESCU was alleged to be a "Brigadir" Legionnaire. A Brigadir Legionnaire was described as a personal and blind follower of HORIA-SIMA. The "Brigadiri"

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of whom NICOLAE PATRASCU was the chief was described as a person who had probably committed illegal acts or crimes and, being thus in a compromising position, were better able to be handled by SIMA for his own ends.

In December, 1942, POPESCU was reportedly tortured and beaten, along with other Legionnaires, at Rostock, Germany, by a group of Brigadiri Legionnaire leaders in order to "admit" having organized an imaginary "plot" against HORIA-SIMA. POPESCU was also appointed by NICOLAE PATRASCU to be liaison man between the Iron Guard group at Rostock and the German Police there.

It is to be noted that during an interview of POPESCU by the Washington Field Office of the FBI during February, 1954, the subject denied membership in the Iron Guard and stated his affiliation with Guardists at Rostock unavoidable. POPESCU stated that he had become identified with a small group of Iron Guardists at Rostock and Buchenwald known as the "Mexicans," who were Iron Guardists but against the leadership of HORIA-SIMA. POPESCU stated that he had not been in sympathy with the Iron Guardists of HORIA-SIMA nor with the "Mexicans."

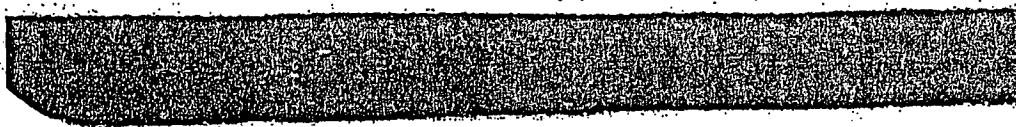
POPESCU stated that he had been, in fact, beaten by the Iron Guardists under HORIA-SIMA for an alleged plot against the latter. POPESCU stated that he had, in fact, been in contact with the German authorities while in German custody primarily because of his knowledge of the German language. POPESCU stated that he had never acted as an informant for the German authorities at any time during his internment by them.

On July 28 and 29, 1954, Confidential Informant T-2, of unknown reliability, advised in part the following information relative to the subject:

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- 1 - Chicago (INFO) (RM)
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T-2 advised that he met POPESCU in Italy subsequent to World War II at which time POPESCU was working for a private transportation agency. He later met POPESCU in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Headquarters of the Rumanian-American newspaper, "Solia." T-2 stated that he had never asked POPESCU if the latter had been a member of the Iron Guard, however, T-2 recalled that he had heard that POPESCU had once been beaten by the Iron Guard.

T-2 stated that POPESCU had left Cleveland because he and his wife desired to escape from Rumanian intrigues and political arguments. T-2 stated that POPESCU's wife, KIRSTEN, is a woman of Swedish descent, whom he regards as being a very fine, honest, hard-working person.

T-2 advised that POPESCU came to Washington, D.C., from Cleveland to enroll at the Catholic University, Washington, D.C. T-2 advised that POPESCU had told him that he could produce a certificate showing that he, POPESCU, had been in attendance at the University of Bucharest. The purpose of the certificate was for POPESCU to gain admittance to Catholic University and to obtain credit for previous schooling; therefore, prior to POPESCU's coming to Washington, D.C., T-2 had advised Catholic University officials of the forthcoming certificate and they proceeded to enroll POPESCU at the University. T-2 stated that when POPESCU came to Washington, however, he did not have the certificate; thus, T-2 felt that he had been disgraced in the eyes of the officials of Catholic University. T-2 advised that he became angry with POPESCU over this incident and, while remaining friendly with the latter for over two months, he subsequently ceased to contact him.

T-2 advised that POPESCU knows TIBERIU HUMITA, who has been described by both POPESCU and T-2 as a former Iron Guardist residing in Detroit, Michigan. T-2 advised that POPESCU and HUMITA are very unfriendly toward one another.

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